



# OFFICIAL NEWS RELEASE

MISSISSIPPI FORESTRY COMMISSION  
660 North St., Suite 300, Jackson, MS 39202

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Firewise Information

*Jackson, MS* – Due to the current statewide burn ban as a result of drought conditions, the Mississippi Forestry Commission has received many inquiries about our fire prevention programs. The Firewise program is an educational program for homeowners and community leaders. This program is for anyone living in, or connected to, the Wildland Urban Interface. Information contained in this program focuses on how to design, construct, landscape, and maintain your home or community so it can withstand a wildfire without the aid of firefighting resources on scene. This program is currently receiving much interest.

Firewise principles are based on National Fire Protection Association guidelines. They include:

- **Design and construction** - Use fire resistant materials when building and retrofitting a home. Use fire proof screens and vents on all openings.
- **Landscaping** - Create and maintain at least 30 feet of defensible space around your home. Within the 30 feet of defensible space, reduce or remove the vegetation that has a high content of flammable resins, oils, or waxes. Remove hazards such as woodpiles on the front porch and prune overhanging tree limbs. Consider the use of fire resistant mulch and consider planting species that have high moisture content in their leaves.
- **Maintenance** - Mow the lawn regularly, sweep the roof and clean out the gutters – this reduces the amount of fuel that will bring a wildfire into the home.

There are many more tips presented in this program that can help save your home should it be threatened by an approaching wildfire. You can view the Firewise program on our website at [www.mfc.ms.gov](http://www.mfc.ms.gov) or on the Firewise website at [www.firewise.org](http://www.firewise.org). For more information, contact Leslie Blackwell at the information provided above.

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